

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing 7 and 9 are being presented as new formal drawing sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheets. The drawing Figures 7 and 9 have been amended. Appended to this amendment is an annotated copy of the previous drawing sheets which have been marked to show changes presented in the replacement sheets of the drawing.

The specific changes which have been made to Figures 7 and 9 are to include a PRIOR ART label for each of those two figures.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being added or cancelled.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 10 are currently being amended.

This amendment and reply amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-10 are pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 5 and 10. By way of this amendment and reply, claims 5 and 10 have each been amended to include the features of their respective base claim (with minor changes made to address the objection to claim 1) and any intervening claims. Thus, claims 5 and 10 are now in allowable form based on the indications made in the Office Action.

Objection to the Drawings:

By way of this amendment and reply, Applicant has amended Figures 7 and 9 to include a PRIOR ART label, which overcomes the objection to the drawings.

Objection to the Specification:

By way of this amendment and reply, Applicant has provided a replacement Abstract that meets the requirements set forth in the M.P.E.P. Accordingly, the objection to the Abstract has been overcome.

Objection to Claim 1:

In the Office Action, claim 1 was objected to because “the phrase ‘predetermined format’ makes the claim indefinite and unclear what the format means.” While Applicant disagrees with the assertion made in the Office Action that this phrase is unclear, claim 1 (and other claims) has been amended to overcome this objection.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0051271 to Yoshikoshi. This rejection is traversed for at least the reasons given below.

The Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to provide the discrimination code teachings of Yoshikoshi to a digital protection relay of the AAPA to detect a code error rate in a discrimination circuit based on the comparison results with regard to a discrimination threshold and discrimination timing. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

As described in Yoshikoshi, a discrimination circuit 8 determines whether the level of reception signal is between the threshold levels. Then, an operation circuit 9 counts the number of cases where the level of reception signal is between the threshold levels, based on the discrimination result from the discrimination circuit 8.

In the system of Yoshikoshi, if the operation circuit 9 detects that the number of cases that the level of reception signal is between the threshold levels is larger than the predetermined count value, it will detect an increase in error rate.

Namely, in Yoshikoshi, the thresholds are used to determine the range for detecting the error rate. In contrast to that, in the invention according to independent claim 1, a discrimination code is used for determining whether the discrimination code coincides with a predetermined code.

Furthermore, according to the invention as recited in independent claim 1, a time sync means specifies a sampling timing of the digital quantity of electricity when the received discrimination code coincides with the predetermined code.

Therefore, the thresholds described in Yoshikoshi are entirely different from the discrimination code recited in independent claim 1.

As a result of this, the combination of Yoshikoshi and AAPA disclose nothing about the claimed time sync means.

Accordingly, presently pending independent claim 1, as well as presently pending independent claim 6 which recites similar features as a method claim, are patentable over the cited art of record.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG. 6

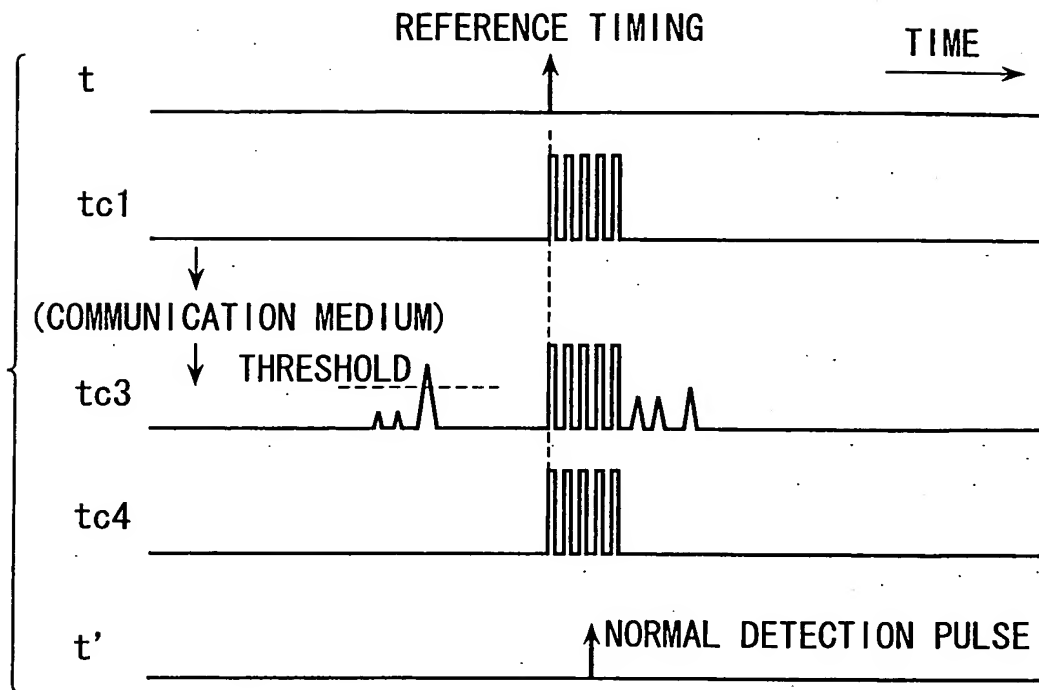


FIG. 7

